

Application No.: 10/817,259
Amdt dated: July 17, 2008
Reply to Office action of April 18, 2008

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 7 of the Application as-filed with the following replacement paragraph:

It can be seen that with the ribs 76, 78 and 81 formed in proximity to the surface 83, they provide a hard plastic barrier which inhibits the suture 27 from falling into any mold shutoff cavity. Thus, for example, as illustrated in Figure 5, the suture 27 is held between the soft elastomeric pads 67 and 70 even in proximity to the surface 83. The spaced relationship of the two ribs 76 and 78 associated with the jaw 65 is best illustrated in Figure 10. As illustrated in Figure 10, elastomeric pad 67 extends along a planar surface of the jaw 65, and includes a first portion extending distally from each of the ribs 76, 78 and a second portion extending from the outer surface of the housing adjacent to the rib to the first portion of the pad 67. The rib 81 which is disposed centrally of the jaw 63, is best illustrated in Figure 11 where the associated pad 67 has been removed for clarity. The offset relationship of the rib 76, 78 and 81 is perhaps best illustrated in the cross-sectional view of Figure 12. Additionally, as illustrated in Figure 12, the second portion of the pad 67 can have a reduced width as it passes adjacent each of the ribs 76, 78 as compared to the width of the first portion (illustrated in Figure 10).